

In a previous number of 'Science Gossip,' Mr. Kitton figures the *Hyalonema* with its parasitical sponge (fig. 19), and the various spicules which he has observed in different parts of it (figs. 21-31): these figures are good, except fig. 20, representing the ends of a broken fibre of the rope. He does not seem to be aware that *Hyalonema* is more common without its parasitic sponge at the tip than with it; but the specimens with the sponge were formerly more sought for by travellers and brought to England, whilst the Russian specimens, being collected by naturalists, were chiefly without this parasite; and now we constantly receive them without any appearance of sponge, covered with living polypes up to the tip of the rope.

On Prognathodus Güntheri (Egerton), a new Genus of Fossil Fish from the Lias of Lyme Regis. By Sir P. DE M. GREY EGERTON, Bart., M.P., F.R.S., F.G.S.

In this paper the author described a new form of fossil fish, having a broad premaxillary plate somewhat resembling the incisor tooth of a gigantic Rodent, a single maxillary plate like that of *Callorhynchus*, and a mandibular dental apparatus closely resembling that of *Cochliodus*. For this form he proposed the establishment of the new genus *Prognathodus*, and named the species *P. Güntheri*. *Ischyodus Johnsoni*, Agassiz, also probably belongs to this genus, as it agrees with *P. Güntheri* in the characters of the premaxillary teeth. The author was doubtful as to the exact position of this genus, which had a head extended in a horizontal instead of a vertical plane, suggesting a resemblance to *Zygæna*, but covered with hard plates like the head of a sturgeon, and exhibited in the dental apparatus the curious combination indicated above.

Dr. GÜNTHER pointed out the interest attaching to the dentition of this fossil fish as being an additional evidence in favour of the connexion between the Ganoid and Chimæroid forms. The existence of three teeth instead of one on each side of the jaw, as in *Ceratodus* and others, presented in it a generic character; but the type was still the same. On one point he slightly differed from the view of the author; and that was as to the application of the terms maxillary and premaxillary to the teeth. He thought the former belonged rather to the pterygo-palatine arch, and that the teeth in the front of the jaw should be regarded as vomerine. He illustrated this by reference to the jaws and dentition of sharks, Chimæroids, and certain Ganoids, such as sturgeons. In these the teeth, instead of being connected with the maxillary and premaxillary bones, were, in fact, connected with the pterygo-palatine arch. He considered that this furnished additional grounds for including all three forms in one subclass.—*Proc. Geol. Soc.* March 6, 1872.

Felis pardinoides. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

In the Minutes of the Meeting of the Zoological Society on the 20th February last, Mr. Selater observes, a paper was read "by Mr. D.

G. Elliot on a cat described by Dr. Gray in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1867 as *Felis pardinoides* from India, which Mr. Elliot considered to be identical with *Felis Geoffroyi* of South America." If Mr. Selater had referred to page 400 of the 'Proceedings' above quoted, he would have found that the specimen there described was received from the museum of the Zoological Society, marked as having been brought from "India by Capt. Innes." So if there be any mistake as to the habitat, the Society is responsible. It is curious that *Felis Geoffroyi* is said to be the same as *F. pardinoides* and *Pardalina Warwicki*, which have very different skulls.

Discovery of a remarkable Fossil Bird. By Prof. O. C. MARSH*.

One of the treasures secured during our explorations this year was the greater portion of the skeleton of a large fossil bird, at least five feet in height, which I was fortunate enough to discover in the Upper Cretaceous of Western Kansas. This interesting specimen, although a true bird (as is clearly shown by the vertebræ and some other parts of the skeleton), differs widely from any known recent or extinct form of that class, and affords a fine example of a comprehensive type. The bones are all well preserved. The femur is very short; but the other portions of the legs are quite elongated. The metatarsal bones appear to have been separated. On my return, I shall fully describe this unique fossil under the name *Hesperornis regalis*.—*Silliman's American Journal*, Jan. 1872.

Pigs of the Society Islands.

"Down by the sea [at Tahiti] was an enormous yard full of pigs, and such pigs! of all sizes, from a Guinea-pig to a Shetland pony—of all colours, from a zebra to a negro. And as for shape, they were thin where they ought to be fat, long where they ought to be short, more like great wedges with the sharp end uppermost than any thing else I can think of. Such gaunt horrible monsters were never beheld; the scene was like the nightmare of a dyspeptic farmer.

"The pigs [of Huahine] presented to us turn out to be hideous little animals of some aboriginal breed, at least one third head, and very ugly head too. They gave one the general impression of having been squeezed from their youth up between two tight boards. And their manner corresponded with their appearance: wickeder pork, for its age, I never saw alive. When Stevedore Mitchell civilly offered one a banana, it flew at him and barked like a dog, to his no small discomfiture. Then it dropped on its fore knees, and seemed for some time to be wrapped in religious contemplation. After fortifying its soul with prayer, it quite suddenly, and quite

* From a letter to Professor Dana, dated San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 29th, 1871.